

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A system for using a mobile telephone to retrieve
information about an article, comprising:

a camera, associated with said mobile telephone, that records
an image of coded data associated with said article; and

a database, remote from said mobile telephone, that supplies
information about said article to said mobile telephone based on a
received, decoded form of said coded data derived from said image.

2. The system as recited in Claim 1 wherein said coded data
is received from said mobile telephone via a selected one of:

an infrared connection, and

a direct radio link.

3. The system as recited in Claim 2 wherein said direct
radio link conforms to a standard selected from the group
consisting of:

Bluetooth,

WLAN, and

HomeRF/SWAP.

4. The system as recited in Claim 1 wherein said coded data
is decoded in said mobile telephone.

5. The system as recited in Claim 1 wherein said mobile
2 telephone contains software that defines a structure corresponding
3 to said database.

6. The system as recited in Claim 1 wherein said coded data
2 is contained in a barcode.

7. The system as recited in Claim 1 wherein said mobile
2 telephone provides said information to a user a selected one of:
3 visually, and
4 acoustically.

8. The system as recited in Claim 1 wherein said information
2 comprises price information.

9. The system as recited in Claim 8 wherein said database
2 contains said price information in at least two different
3 currencies.

10. The system as recited in Claim 1 wherein a memory in said
2 mobile telephone stores data pertaining to a plurality of articles
3 and said image is a video sequence.

11. A method of using a mobile telephone to retrieve
2 information about an article, comprising:

3 recording, with a camera associated with said mobile
4 telephone, an image of coded data associated with said article; and

5 supplying, from a database remote from said mobile telephone,
6 information about said article to said mobile telephone based on a
7 received, decoded form of said coded data derived from said image.

12. The method as recited in Claim 11 wherein said coded data
2 is received from said mobile telephone via a selected one of:

3 an infrared connection, and

4 a direct radio link.

13. The method as recited in Claim 12 wherein said direct
2 radio link conforms to a standard selected from the group
3 consisting of:

4 Bluetooth,

5 WLAN, and

6 HomeRF/SWAP.

14. The method as recited in Claim 11 further comprising
2 decoding said coded data in said mobile telephone.

15. The method as recited in Claim 11 wherein said mobile

2 telephone contains software that defines a structure corresponding
3 to said database.

16. The method as recited in Claim 11 wherein said coded data
2 is contained in a barcode.

17. The method as recited in Claim 11 further comprising
2 providing, with said mobile telephone, said information to a user
3 a selected one of:
4 visually, and
5 acoustically.

18. The method as recited in Claim 11 wherein said
2 information comprises price information.

19. The method as recited in Claim 18 wherein said database
2 contains said price information in at least two different
3 currencies.

20. The method as recited in Claim 11 further comprising
2 storing, in a memory in said mobile telephone, data pertaining to
3 a plurality of articles and said image is a video sequence.

21. A mobile telephone, comprising:

2 a camera;

3 software that receives an image associated with an article
4 from said camera, decodes coded data contained in said image and
5 queues said data for transmission to a database remote from said
6 mobile telephone; and

7 a display that receives and displays information about said
8 article from said database.